



11 March 2016

Submission on the Final Draft Electricity Pricing Report from Christopher and Mary Durie

It seems from what we have read of this report that the Qld Government is considering going back on or watering down on the contract they agreed with us to pay a feed in tariff of 44 cents until 2028 on our solar installations. Now we know why all the Courier Mail articles appeared while Newman was in power in an attempt to make us Solar Bonus Scheme people feel responsible and guilty for increasing power prices.

As far as we are concerned this was a contract and we agreed to pay to install panels and the Qld Government agreed to buy our excess power at this rate. We would not have invested the large sums of money for PV systems at the time if we were aware that they would go back on their word.

We should not feel guilty. We are not the 'rich people' they bang on about who were the only people able to install PV systems at the time. Anyone could have done it using the tariff to cover any loan for the system. We know. Chris designed and sold domestic PV systems to all income levels and so far has not had one complaint that it was unaffordable.

We made a commercial decision based on the rate offered at the time and the 2028 expiry date. We paid a large amount of money to opt in. Some of us used part of our Superannuation in a commercial financial decision based on the contract. Not our fault if the Qld Government is now having second thoughts about the rate they offered then. The people who are crying poor have not invested their own money. We have.

We have ultimately saved the Qld Government probably billions of dollars that they would have had to spend on upgraded power stations and infrastructure and fuel if we weren't all generating power.

We are contributing well above our weight in reducing global carbon emissions which was also a factor in our decision to take up the SBS. Without us it would be much harder for the government to fulfil their obligations on carbon emissions.

The Newman Government had already gone back on their word regarding transportability of the tariff to new owners if the property was sold thereby lowering the property value, and they have increased to the standing charge to water down our benefit and no doubt more of that is to come as well. If the QLD Government decides to go back on the agreement as recommended in this report then this may mean a reduction to maybe zero tariff, for everyone who have a huge investment sitting on their roof. It is not on and we intend to challenge in the strongest possible terms any attempt to change our contract.

We intend to launch, or join in, a class action if there is any further erosion of our contract with the Qld Government. As far as we are concerned we have a legal contract. We have fulfilled our part of the contract and the Qld Government is obligated to do likewise.

Christopher and Mary Durie